



*From the desk of*  
**Rep. Laura Ruderman, 45th District**

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*"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself;  
but each of us can work to change a small portion of  
events, and in the total of all those acts will be  
written the history of this generation."*

—Robert F. Kennedy

Dear neighbor,

I am writing this letter with mixed emotions.

As you probably know, I am not seeking reelection as your state representative this fall because I have decided to seek another public office.

I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" for allowing me to serve you. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to represent you in Olympia.

Although being a legislator is not an easy or particularly glamorous job, it has been a challenging and fulfilling one, and one I have taken very seriously over the past six years.

The people I have met and the passion each of you has demonstrated toward improving our state has truly been inspiring. Every day I am reminded of why our democracy works. It is sometimes messy and often cumbersome, but it allows each of us to raise our voices and be heard if only we choose to do so.

During my time in the Legislature I have worked for issues that I believed were important to our state, regardless of any political party's agenda. Things such as:

- Funding for low-income women to receive treatment for breast and cervical cancer.
- Starting the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) so thousands of Washington's kids can get the medical care they need.
- Extending a senior property tax plan that will help keep 40,000 people in their homes.

*(over please)*

This year alone I supported....

- **Reforms to keep our jobs from going overseas.** Most state agencies contract with companies that outsource jobs created with your tax dollars. The Senate refused to even hold a hearing on a bill to help us know which agencies and industries ship out our jobs.
- **Plans to get cheaper medicine from Canada.** Washington taxpayers spend \$1 billion a year on prescription medicines, and Americans pay up to three times the price of Canadians for the same drugs. I backed a bill to let Washington state get medicines from Canada – saving taxpayers \$300 million – and help citizens find big savings shopping online at reputable Canadian pharmacies. The Senate refused to allow a vote.
- **Electronic voting with a paper trail.** We've seen the democratic process reach new lows recently. Electronic voting machines went on the fritz in many states on Election Day last winter, doing everything from losing votes to changing votes to shutting down as citizens waited in line. Voters had no way to retrieve or re-cast their votes because there was no paper trail. County and state elections officials supported my reform to create a paper trail for any electronic voting machines used in this state.

From January to mid March alone, nearly 2,500 of you contacted me about those issues and many, many others. That's more than 40 letters, e-mails or phone calls each day. I am grateful that so many of you found your passion and raised your voice. Looking back, it's great to see what we accomplished for kids, families, and businesses in Washington. I'm moving on, but I hope you will stay in touch with your elected officials and hold your representatives accountable.

Thank you again for all you do to make the 45th District a wonderful place to live, work and play. It is because of your commitment to our community that I know it will remain a very special place long into the future.

Sincerely,



Laura

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*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

—Margret Mead